



TO: Federal and State Affairs Committee

RE: SB260

February 11, 2025

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

It makes me proud to be a Kansan when I can tell folks the great news, that horse racing is “on track” to make a comeback in Kansas- at Eureka Downs, the oldest horse racetrack west of the Mississippi!

A 1996 state report shows there were more than 6,400 racehorses in Kansas with a 1996 inventory value of nearly \$14 million, more than 380 trainers employed in the state and more than 200 groomers and exercise riders- just in one segment of the horse industry in Kansas! The equine sector has not been the same since horse racing left our state in the early 2000s- taking breeders and trainers to other states where opportunities are still available.

But hope remains! Let’s rebuild the KS horse breeding and racing segment, which will be a HUGE economic driver for Kansas. When one horse can generate 3 paid jobs both directly and indirectly- that makes wages for employers, employees, and stimulates spending in the local economy, and when one horse breeder spends over \$1M a year on hay and buys feed and fuel and transportation in our state, that’s impactful!

Think about the service provider segment- this should be a motivator for supporting equine sciences and veterinary programs to prepare for the increased industry demand in our state for those service providers.

I present to you today, my support for codifying the funding mechanism for the **Horse Fair Racing Benefit Fund**, which allocates 3% of taxes on parimutuel wagering, via simulcast and the new Historical Horse Racing Machines, along with any applicable future admissions tax, application fees, license fees and fines to **revive and sustain live horse racing in Kansas**.

Let’s get recognized as a racehorse breeding and training state like we were in the 90’s. Situated in the middle of this great nation, in the heart of the Midwest, we are in a great place to do business for racing enthusiasts. This will positively boost the Kansas Agriculture and Commerce economies. Hopefully you saw the economic impact postcards left for you last week and had a chance to review those.

There’s something inherently attractive about horses and their athleticism that goes back generationally to an agrarian culture. We can bring that joy closer to home if you approve the Senate Bill before you. Imagine experiencing the thrill of the thundering hooves and heartbeats once again running down the track at Eureka Downs in Eureka, KS, cheering for a horse, that could be owned by your neighbor! Support our fellow Kansas Racehorse Breeders & Owners with a local racetrack and keep that money circulating in our state!

Respectfully Submitted,

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